

Georgia Department of Human Resources

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN GEORGIA

The Problem

In Georgia

- 70,557 crisis calls were made to domestic violence shelters in 2003.
- Georgia certified family violence programs provided shelter for 4179 adults and 4412 children for a total of 185,959 shelter nights in 2003.
- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation reports that law enforcement officers responded to 47,802 family violence incidents in 2001.

Nationwide

- April 2003, CDC reported that health related costs of intimate partner violence exceeded \$5.8 billion each year in the US.
- Approximately one in five female high school students reports being physically or sexually abused by a dating partner. (Journal of American Medical Association, 2001)
- The U.S. Department of Justice reported in 2001 that approximately 4.8 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually.
- Intimate partners murdered 1247 women in 2000. On average more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the US every day.
- Fifty percent of men who frequently assault their wives also abuse their children; the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursors to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country.

The Resources

- Georgia has 45 certified family violence shelters, operated by private, nonprofit organizations. They provide 24-hour crisis lines; legal and social service advocacy; children's programs; parenting support and education; emotional support; and community education. All of these agencies also offer emergency safe shelters. All services are free and confidential.
- A statewide toll-free 24-hour crisis line: 1-800-33-HAVEN (334-2836) will automatically connect the caller to the nearest family violence agency.
- In FY 2003 the Georgia General Assembly spent \$9,218,058 (consisting of state, federal family violence prevention act, and federal TANF funds) to support family violence programs.
- All county DFCS offices have domestic violence assessors who assist DFCS staff to identify and provide crisis intervention and relocation services to domestic violence victims receiving or applying for TANF assistance.